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AFGHANISTAN

Date: October 2009
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FACT SHEET

Health Care Improvement Project/Afghanistan (HCI)

OVERVIEW

The Health Care Improvement/Afghanistan (HCI) project develops the capacity of Afghanistan's health sector to improve the quality of care offered to patients. HCI works with counterparts in the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), provincial public health directorates, and NGOs to develop collaborative strategies for offering better healthcare services in a more efficient manner. This process brings about significant and rapid improvement in health outcomes for patients in Afghanistan. Currently, HCI focuses on effecting improvements in maternal and child health.

ACTIVITIES

- **Maternal and newborn health facility demonstration collaborative** – The collaborative began in January 2009 in 29 sites in Balkh and Kunduz. It improves the quality of routine antenatal and post-partum care, including counseling for birth preparedness and danger-signs recognition, as well as labor management and newborn care. Additionally, the collaborative offers improved antenatal and post-partum services for maternal newborn complications, including post-partum counseling and more efficient referral processes for new mothers.
- **Maternal and newborn health community demonstration collaborative** – This collaborative focuses on the care provided by community health workers, who are local residents trained to provide basic healthcare in areas that lack doctors. It builds connections between the community health workers and formal healthcare facilities, including the creation of a referral process for critically ill patients.
- **Kabul Maternity Hospital demonstration collaborative (KMHC)** – The KMHC is a partnership with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and local health NGOs. It operates in select Kabul maternity hospitals, aiming to reduce maternal and perinatal mortality through improved quality of caesarian sections, vaginal delivery care, and post-partum family planning counseling.
- **Support to the MoPH in building capacity for quality improvement nationwide** – HCI engages in dialogue with the MoPH and provincial public health directorates on health care improvement activities in Afghanistan. They develop the appropriate strategies and infrastructure for healthcare improvement in Afghanistan, including the modernization of the medical curriculum.
- **Research and Evaluation** – HCI conducts research studies on the impact that improved healthcare strategies and practices have at the community level, and on the cost-effectiveness of quality improvement approaches.

RESULTS

- Established quality improvement teams at the provincial level in Balkh and Kunduz, at demonstration sites, and in Rabia Balkhi Hospital in Kabul.
- Conducted a quality improvement workshop for Ministry of Public Health staff and local partners at the central level.
- Conducted a baseline assessment of obstacles to access and gaps in the quality of medical care at the facility and community levels in Balkh and Kunduz provinces.

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